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**JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE:**

**A**

**REPRESENTATION**

**OF THE**

**CONDUCT**

**OF THE**

**TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY,**

**AND**

**CIRCUMSTANCES CONNECTED THEREWITH,**

**IN RELATION TO**

**JOHN BARNES, M. D.**

Professor of Midwifery, and the Diseases of Women and Children,  
in this Institution.

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**PHILADELPHIA:**

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## JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE.

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“The conduct of corporations, touching the interests of science, and of individuals bearing office connected with scientific affairs, is not matter of science ; it is matter of policy, and enjoys no exemption from the most free and searching inquiry in whatever shape may be most likely to promote the great end of all discussions upon public measures; prevent abuse, and see right and justice done.”—*Edinburgh Review*, Oct. 1827.

THE trustees of the Jefferson Medical College, in concert with the members of the faculty, having, by a series of unwarrantable acts, assailed my professional reputation; and every effort on my part to obtain a due regard for my rights having proved fruitless, I feel justified and compelled, by a sense of duty to myself, to appeal to the primary source of all power in this country—PUBLIC OPINION. For the correctness of that opinion, I cheerfully trust to the impartial judgment of my fellow-citizens.

To effect this result, the official and other documents herewith submitted, would, I conceive, of themselves be all-conclusive. Preliminary, however, to these documents, it is deemed expedient to offer certain facts and delineations of character, which, as they are calculated to exhibit more vividly the management and intrigues of the members of the Jefferson medical faculty, and the board of additional trustees, as well as the estimation the members of these respective bodies entertain of each other, than are afforded by the official documents themselves, it has been considered due to this appeal to present, in order that the public may correctly estimate what detriment professional character ought to sustain in the opinion of an enlightened community, from the decision of a judicature, marked by such signal proofs of moral turpitude. Should this representation seem, in any instance, to interfere with the confidence of social intercourse, let the heavy responsibility rest upon those, who, by a reckless regard of justice and humanity, have rendered such an exposure necessary.

In the early part of June, 1826, after an absence of near three years, I returned to Philadelphia. One of my first calls was on Dr. Eberle, who expressed, in the warmest terms, his gratification at my return. Directing the conversation almost immediately to Jefferson College, he expressed a wish that I would take the chair of midwifery, which, he remarked, would be soon vacant. I observed, that I could not consent to be regarded as a candidate, while Dr. Beattie remained in the possession of the professorship. He then said, a refusal on my part would be of no avail to Dr. Beattie, as the faculty had determined to effect his removal; and besides, Dr. M \* \* \* had been consulted, and not only had assented to take the situation, but was even desirous of obtaining it ; but that he, Dr. Eberle, much preferred that I should be appointed—that my refusal could not benefit Dr. Beattie in the least, and would only deprive me of a situation which would render me independent for life.

I finally assented to take the chair of midwifery, provided it should become vacant; but explicitly stated, at the time, that I would not, on any consideration, participate in any measures which might be adopted for the removal of Dr. Beattie.

In the course of the day on which this conversation took place, Dr. Eberle called at my residence, and showed me a communication addressed to the board of trustees at Canonsburg, requesting them to appoint me to fill the chair of midwifery, provided the then incumbent should be removed. In the space of a day or two, this paper was signed by professors Eberle, M'Clellan, Smith, and Green, and forwarded.

Dr. Barton, at this time, was not a member of the faculty, although actively engaged in directing its concerns.

Dr. Rhees's name was not solicited, as the other members of the faculty, had little if any intercourse with him: and from what I have subsequently learned, he would not have signed the paper, had he been asked; as it was a distinct stipulation, when he consented to the relinquishment of the chair of materia medica in favour of Dr. Barton, and the sacrifice of Dr. Beattie; that no new professor should be appointed to fill the chair of midwifery; but that Dr. Eberle should perform the duties of the two chairs of practice and midwifery, in order that the emoluments of the chair of institutes, about to be established, might be equal to any of the other chairs, which was guarantied by the faculty to Dr. Rhees, when he assented to the relinquishment of the materia medica chair.

Even at this early period, we have unfolded to us a specimen of that spirit of management and intrigue, which appears to have been the governing principle of this institution from its origin. In the above arrangement and guaranty, we see how artfully Dr. Rhees was entrapped, by a pecuniary bait, to unite with measures, which, to say the least of them, were dishonourable and treacherous to a colleague. The pressure of this arrangement, however, Dr. Rhees has ever since laboured under, and it is reasonable to believe it will eventually crush him, if it has not already rendered his professorship valueless.

A short time only, after the communication requesting my appointment had been transmitted to Canonsburg, professors M'Clellan and Smith forwarded to the same place, *unknown to their colleagues*, a letter signed by them, purposely designed to counteract the previous communication, which they had both signed.

*This base act of covert treachery*, to the co-signers of the original paper, was detected, by some unguarded expressions which dropt from Dr. Smith in conversation, and was productive of an open rupture between Dr. M'Clellan and Dr. Eberle, which continued for a considerable time.

When it was expected my appointment to the chair of midwifery would be made at Canonsburg, and even before the arrangement, by which Dr. Barton was to take the chair of materia medica, had been confirmed by the trustees at that place; Dr. Barton proposed to me to relinquish the chair of midwifery to Dr. Moore, and take the chair of institutes, which had not yet been established, although it was proposed to create this chair expressly for Dr. Rhees, as a sort of compensation for his relinquishment of the chair of materia medica to Dr. Barton.

Thus, before Dr. Barton became a member of the Jefferson medical faculty, he assumed the office of PROFESSORSHIP BROKER of this institution; and was busily occupied in the active duties of this *honourable* station, ready to barter away the rights and privileges of one of its founders, who, at that moment, was about to sustain irreparable loss from a *constrained* arrangement made expressly for the purpose of introducing into the institution, *this high-minded character*, so distinguished for his *foreign services* as surgeon in the Navy of the United States.



The board of trustees at Canonsburg, sanctioned the arrangement by which Dr. Barton was appointed professor of materia medica; established the chair of institutes, which they assigned to Dr. Rhees; but adopted no measures in regard to the chair of midwifery, except referring the circumstances connected with it to the board of additional trustees, then or about to be appointed.

By previous arrangement, it was agreed that the medical faculty should have the nomination of the additional trustees in the first instance. Even in this act of nomination, a departure from rectitude could not but display itself.

Dr. Beattie has already stated how Dr. Wiley's name was dishonourably left off the list, after it had been distinctly agreed upon. But another transaction, infinitely more indicative of the turpitude of some of the members of the faculty, occurred on that occasion. After the list of ten names had been decided on, some of the members, without the knowledge of the others, tore off or erased from the list, the names of Judge King, Judge Coxe, and Mr. Humphreys, and the appointment came down without their names. This transaction produced considerable sensation, at the time, among the faculty, and some of the additional trustees, who became apprised of the fact; and the erased names were subsequently transmitted, and these individuals appointed.

While on the subject of the appointment of the additional trustees, I will mention another fact, although of much more recent date.

When Mr. Humphreys left this city, he prepared a letter of resignation, which he handed to Dr. Sutherland, to be presented to the board of additional trustees. While this letter was still in the desk of Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Ely, anxious to have as much influence in the board as obtainable, *assumed* the fact of the resignation of Mr. Humphreys, and had his reverend friend Mr. Livingston appointed, leaving the letter of resignation to be presented at some future period.

The board of additional trustees, during a considerable part of the summer of 1826, were occupied, in violation of justice, with a species of mock-trial in regard to the then professor of midwifery, Dr. Beattie, which continued until within a short time of the ensuing course of lectures.

During this period, while Dr. Barton, on the one hand, was urging almost all persons who had any pretensions to midwifery to become candidates for the chair; Dr. M'Clellan, on the other hand, was devising every scheme which his ingenuity could suggest, to introduce Dr. Rush into the faculty. To such an extent did Dr. Barton carry his plan of advising persons to offer themselves as candidates, that Dr. Colhoun was prevailed on to present himself for the situation, proposing to lecture for the then ensuing season gratuitously. Failing, however, he was laughed at, personally, by Dr. Barton, for making such an application; although Dr. Barton had advised him to act precisely as he had done.

The leading design of Dr. M'Clellan, was to procure the appointment of Dr. James Rush as a member of the Jefferson medical faculty. This object was unreservedly avowed, personally and by letter, during the passage of the act of incorporation. The removal of Dr. Beattie, and the intended introduction of Dr. Rush, were all arranged before Dr. Beattie had concluded his course of lectures, and even before he had made those pretended omissions and pretended mistakes, which have been so deceptively magnified to delude the public. Intent upon this same object, the first scheme, after the appointment of the additional trustees, was a proposition on the part of Dr. M'Clellan, that all the professors in the institution should resign, and be re-appointed by the board of additional trustees. This arrangement would have enabled Dr. M'Clellan to have had Dr. Eberle transferred to the chair of midwifery, and Dr. James Rush to the chair of practice. This plan, however, did not succeed.

Dr. M'Clellan was told, that if he wished to resign, he was at liberty to do so, but the other professors would keep their chairs.

The next plan of Dr. M'Clellan, was to depreciate the character and standing of every candidate for the chair of midwifery, in order to impress the additional trustees with the belief that no suitable appointment could be made, and they must therefore insist on Dr. Eberle's consenting to lecture, for that session at least, on both practice and midwifery. Repeated efforts were accordingly made by the additional trustees, to prevail on Dr. Eberle to assent to this arrangement.

At this time, however, Dr. Barton was strenuous in his efforts to dissuade Dr. Eberle from acceding to the proposition. He represented the proposal as a trick on the part of Dr. M'Clellan and his agents, in the board of additional trustees, to get Dr. Eberle seated in the chair of midwifery, which would be followed by a requisition of his relinquishment of the chair of practice, in order that Dr. Rush might be appointed to fill it. At this time, both Dr. Barton and Dr. Eberle, without reserve, spoke unkindly of Dr. Rush.

After my first election by the additional trustees, Dr. Barton observed, that I might thank him for one thing ; that he had prevented Dr. Eberle from taking the chair of midwifery.

Shall we give credence to Dr. Barton on this subject, and believe that Dr. Eberle could have been so unmindful of the very delicate situation in which he was placed in regard to myself on this occasion, as to have thought, even for a single moment, of consenting to take the chair of midwifery, after having solicited me to receive the appointment?

Dr. Eberle being unwilling to accede to the proposition of taking both chairs, Dr. M'Clellan was compelled to change his course of conduct; and now endeavoured to procure the removal of Dr. Rhees, as the chair of institutes might be made subservient to the introduction of Dr. Rush into the faculty. At one time, I have no doubt, Dr. M'Clellan considered his arrangements amply adequate to the accomplishment of his object, and the board of trustees ripe for the execution of his design. I well remember meeting him in the street one evening, when he observed to me, " now all difficulty is done away in regard to your being appointed; the trustees will remove Dr. Rhees; Dr. Rush can have his chair; you will be appointed to the midwifery; and Mr. E. Ingersoll has mentioned to me, that I might tell you to prepare your lectures.

At this time, Dr. Colhoun was editor, and Mr. Webster proprietor of the Medical Recorder.

Dr. Barton, in company with Dr. Colhoun, waited on Mr. Webster, and proposed that he and Dr. Smith should be united in the editorship with Dr. Colhoun, stating, that if this arrangement could be brought about, Dr. Colhoun should have the chair of institutes in Jefferson College.

On Mr. Webster's declining the proposed arrangement, Dr. Barton observed to Dr. Colhoun, " then your jig is up."

After this, Mr. Webster was told, that his son should be made demonstrator of anatomy in the college, provided he would accede to the proposition; this was also declined.

It is presumed that Dr. Barton would not have endeavoured to negotiate an editorship for himself and Dr. Smith, by bartering away the chair of Dr. Rhees, without some previous understanding with his colleagues. Dr. Rhees may, therefore, thank Mr. Webster for being permitted, even at this early period, to continue in the institution.

We may form a more correct estimate of the utter disregard which some of these professors had for the rights and privileges of their co-associates, by bearing in mind, that these attempts and threats to remove Dr. Rhees, were made within a very short period after the chair of institutes had been created expressly for him, and before he had delivered a single lecture under the new arrangement.



The removal of Dr. Rhees was not so easily to be accomplished. When attempted, he was found too strongly entrenched behind his religious and political connexions, to be readily ousted, and was thereby enabled, notwithstanding the unceasing efforts of Dr. M'Clellan and some other members of the faculty, to retain his situation.

Having failed in the several plans recited above, and still disposed not to abandon the hope of eventually placing Dr. Rush in the chair of practice, a new plan was now started: to fill the chair of midwifery temporarily for the then approaching session of 1826 and 27. This proposition was adopted, and I was unanimously elected, without being indebted, in the least degree, to the medical faculty, who, although they had previously solicited me to join the institution, and without my solicitation recommended me, subsequently treacherously endeavoured to counteract my appointment.

It will perhaps be well, as we pass along, to mark attentively the conduct of the relations and friends of Dr. M'Clellan on the occasion of this appointment. Mr. E. Ingersoll, the brother-in-law of Dr. M'Clellan, who had authorized him to say to me, that I might prepare my lectures, did not attend the meeting. Mr. Badger, the cousin of Dr. M'Clellan, informed me that he went to the meeting with the intention of voting for Dr. Moore; but having found all the other members prepared to vote for me, he united with them, and made the vote unanimous. Mr. Charles S. Coxe was, at this time, anxiously solicitous to obtain the situation of associate judge of the District Court of the City and County of Philadelphia, and he thought it of some moment to obtain a letter from one of my friends, who was believed to have some influence with the Governor of the state. What weight the wish to obtain that letter had in the disposal of his vote on this occasion, must be left to be inferred from his subsequent deportment.

So intent were some of the additional trustees on finally accomplishing their views, in regard to the appointment of Dr. Rush, that even after my election, they displayed a degree of timidity and self-distrust in the measure they had unanimously adopted, which could only have originated in a spirit unbecoming the dignity of a public board of trustees.

On the next day succeeding my appointment, I received a note from Mr. Badger, requesting an interview. Mr. Coxe had, in the mean time, left his card at my residence. I called accordingly, when Mr. Badger informed me, that Mr. Coxe and himself had been appointed a committee of the additional trustees, to obtain a note from me, to acknowledge the temporary nature of my appointment. I observed, it was customary, on such occasions, for the person elected to receive notification of his appointment, and that if the committee would address a communication to me, I would reply. This course was objected to. As I could not divine the motives of the committee, at the time, nor why they should be so extremely cautious and timid in the performance of so very plain a duty, I thought it proper to be as circumspect as the case would admit of, and accordingly presented the following note:

*"Philadelphia, Oct. 4th, 1826.*

"Gentlemen,—From the conversation I have had with you, I understand that you have filled the chair of midwifery in Jefferson College, for the ensuing season only.

"As respects my portion of the emoluments arising from the chair, I submit it entirely to the board of trustees to make such arrangements as they may think proper.

"Very respectfully,

"Your obedient servant,

"JOHN BARNES.

"SAMUEL BADGER, Esq.

"CHARLES S. COXE, Esq."

The next day after the delivery of this note, Mr. Badger requested another interview. I called accordingly, when he handed back my note of the preceding day, stating, that it did not meet the views of Mr. Coxe. I then requested that the committee would dictate a form which would be satisfactory to them. Mr. Badger then handed to me the following, which he observed Mr. Coxe had left with him.

"It is distinctly understood by me, that I have been appointed to lecture at the Jefferson Medical College on obstetrics and diseases of women and children for the ensuing season only, and that the trustees are in no way bound, in honour or otherwise to continue me after the delivery of the course; or, to elect me the regular professor of the said chair, but are to be as free and unbiassed in the election of a professor, hereafter, as if my temporary appointment had not been made. It is also understood and agreed by me, that only one half of the price of each ticket for the course is to be retained by me, to wit, \$7.50., and that the other half is to be at the disposal of the board of additional trustees."

I observed to Mr. Badger, that I did not feel prepared to sign such a paper; that I should like some time to reflect on the subject; and with his permission would take the paper with me.

I called on one of the additional trustees, and showed him the note I had first handed to Mr. Badger, the draught of Mr. Coxe, and stated to him my reluctance and decided determination not to subscribe any paper embracing such humiliating terms. He remarked, that such a note ought not to be exacted by the committee, and was not expected by the board of additional trustees. I then requested that he would prepare the form of a note, which he thought would be acceptable to the board of additional trustees, and I would adopt it. He then suggested the following:

"Gentlemen,—I accept the appointment to lecture on midwifery during the ensuing season in Jefferson Medical College, upon the terms of lecturing three times a week, at the rate of \$7½ for each student.

"I offer my acknowledgments to the board of trustees, for the honour they have done me by this appointment, and consider them in no degree pledged thereby for my continuance in the situation.

"If the interest of the college and my own, can be promoted by a permanent appointment, I shall entertain no doubt on the subject; otherwise I would be unwilling to fill the chair."

This I signed and handed to Mr. Badger, who said it was perfectly satisfactory to him, and ought to be so to Mr. Coxe.

The motives of the committee in this business, especially Mr. Coxe's, when viewed in connexion with subsequent proceedings, cannot be misunderstood. The design of placing Dr. Rush in the medical faculty had not been abandoned; and it was therefore a matter of considerable moment, on the part of these gentlemen, to retain the faculty in such a state, that the door might not be closed on the hopes of the partisans of Dr. Rush.

From the time of my appointment, I attended regularly the meetings of the Jefferson medical faculty; most of which, however, were so indecorous and turbulent, owing to the disputes and the ungentlemanly deportment of the members towards each other, that attendance at them was really painful. On one occasion, at a regular faculty meeting, professor Barton shook his fist in professor Rhee's face.

About a fortnight after my appointment, Mr. E. Ingersoll placed in my hands a letter from the Rev. S. Ralston, President of the board of trustees at Canonsburg, addressed to the Rev. Ashbel Green, dated Sept. 27th, 1826, in which he states:

"In a communication from Mr. Ingersoll to this college, it was requested that the board would authorize the additional trustees in your

city, to appoint a successor to Dr. Beattie. The board are of opinion, "that they have no such power; but have directed me to assure you, that they will appoint the person you may select and recommend for that department; and it is thought and hoped, that this assurance will encourage that person to prepare for, and enter upon the duties of that department, without any fear of being disappointed."

Thus, before my permanent appointment, I had the positive assurance of the board of trustees of Jefferson College, that I might "prepare for, and enter upon the duties of the department, without any fear of being disappointed."

Independently of this solemn assurance, the letter is all-important, inasmuch as it has annexed to it, an official certificate of the resolution of the board at Canonsburg, for the removal of Dr. Beattie, which resolution does not even refer to the board of additional trustees here, evincing clearly that the power of removal of professors, was vested exclusively in the board at Canonsburg. This letter also contains the acknowledgment of the additional trustees, expressed through their official organ, Mr. E. Ingersoll, that they have no power to make appointments to professorships, as they solicit that authority from the mother-board, and the deliberate opinion of the board at Canonsburg, that they did not consider themselves authorized to even grant that power to the additional trustees.

With this clear understanding of the extent of their powers, as acknowledged by themselves and defined by the board at Canonsburg, THE ADDITIONAL TRUSTEES, after having *individually* taken a solemn OATH to perform the duties of their office with FIDELITY, have, in the late assumption of the removal and appointment of professors, been guilty of a gross infraction of the law, and consequent violation of the solemn obligation by which that law was intended to be preserved inviolate.

Soon after the commencement of my first course of lectures in this institution, Dr. Beattie's pamphlet appeared, which widened the breach already existing between Dr. Barton and Dr. M'Clellan. Dr. Barton, in allusion to the statements in regard to himself in Dr. Beattie's publication, said he had no doubt Dr. M'Clellan had made them; while Dr. M'Clellan, on his part, was continually reiterating the charges there stated, and asserting that he could substantiate them by ample testimony. From this time, a majority of the faculty, Dr. M'Clellan, Dr. Smith, Dr. Rhees, and Professor Green, became decidedly hostile to Dr. Barton, and were constantly speaking in the most disrespectful terms of him and his lectures. Dr. M'Clellan spoke very freely of removing him from the school; remarking, on almost every interview, that he did not care about being connected with, and would not continue in the institution, if Dr. Barton were permitted to remain attached to it, and that I must assist in getting Dr. Barton out, or that I would never be permanently appointed; and that Dr. Rush would never join the school while Dr. Barton remained attached to the faculty.

I was at the house of the Rev. Dr. Green, when Dr. M'Clellan mentioned to him, in my presence, that Mr. Edward Ingersoll would never meet the board of additional trustees again, so long as Dr. Barton was permitted to continue in the institution. We cannot help that, said Dr. Green; Dr. Barton was not a person of our choice; we did not put him there; you must thank yourselves for his being in the faculty.

Dr. Smith and Professor Green both observed repeatedly, that Dr. Eberle had highly extolled Dr. Barton before his admission into the institution; but that he had not answered their expectations in any respect; that his lectures were not satisfactory, his deportment and conduct highly offensive and reprehensible, and it would be much better for the interests of the school if he were out of it.



Dr. Smith seldom spoke of Dr. Barton, in private or in his absence, except in the most severe and contemptuous terms.

Dr. Rhees's language, respecting Dr. Barton, was always most contemptuous: he contended that it became the other members of the faculty to treat Dr. Barton with cold civility at the faculty meetings, and have nothing to do with him at any other time.

Soon after the public commencement for conferring degrees, in the spring of 1827, considerable expectation was entertained, that sufficient influence could be exerted to effect the removal of Dr. Barton. So far as I was capable of observing the movements of the members of the faculty on that occasion, it appeared that professor Green was as deeply engaged in the plot as any of the others. He very freely expressed his disapprobation both of Dr. Barton's lectures and deportment.

The fact, however, to which I particularly wish to direct attention, is the departure of professor Green for New-York, about the time when it was thought open efforts would be commenced to accomplish the removal of Dr. Barton. So long as the management was to be conducted clandestinely, this *frank and honourable* professor was at his post; but his moral courage took flight with his person, when there was any risk of responsibility. If I understand "*the rule of action*" of this *worthy character*, on occasions of this nature, it is to do covertly as much mischief as possible to the character and standing of a co-associate, who may be the devoted victim, and escape before the hour of sacrifice. It is well known, that he timed his trip to Canonsburg, and his Canadian tour, in the case of Dr. Beattie; and I have no doubt, his present voyage to Europe was partly planned to escape responsibility in the late iniquitous transactions; having, I believe, previously instructed his father what course of policy to pursue; yet this man presumes to be a high professing Christian, who talks of his father as being the head of a large sect of Christians, and has even observed to me, that it would be all-important for the interests of Jefferson College, if the idea were generally extant, that it was a Presbyterian institution, for then it would have the whole influence of that sect in the United States exerted in its behalf, and the college filled with students.

Although there are individuals attached to the trusteeship and faculty of Jefferson College, who do not hesitate to prostitute the high and solemn duties of religion to secular purposes; yet the highly respectable Christian sect of Presbyterians will not, I trust, as a body, ever sanction such barefaced attempts to render the worship of Almighty God, subservient to such schemes of personal aggrandizement.

We have already seen, that two highly distinguished members of this Christian community would not, even as individuals, connect themselves with this institution. It is well known, that the Rev. Dr. Janeway was elected a member of the board of additional trustees, and refused to receive the appointment; and recently, his brother-in-law, Dr. Robert M. Patterson, was unanimously elected by the board of additional trustees to be recommended to the board at Canonsburg, as professor of anatomy, who also declined the situation; preferring, no doubt, an appointment in an institution remote from his friends and connexions, rather than hazard his professional character in the hands of a board of trustees, who, instigated by an unprincipled faculty, have heretofore pursued a course of policy, regardless of the rights of those whom they had solemnly sworn to protect.

Returning from this digression to the more immediate affairs of the college, we may remark, that Dr. Eberle, at this time, did not escape the animadversions of his colleagues. Dr. M'Clellan, at almost every interview I had with him, spoke in very harsh terms of Dr. Eberle, whom he regarded as the mere tool of Dr. Barton. On one occasion he was excessively vituperative, representing Dr. Eberle, as a person on whom no reliance could be placed: that he had promised to Mr. E. Ingersoll

to take the chair of *materia medica*, in case the additional trustees would adopt measures constraining Dr. Barton to resign, and had afterwards refused to enter into the arrangement.

The opinion of Dr. Eberle, invariably expressed to me was, that both Dr. Barton and Dr. M'Clellan were unprincipled in their conduct. Dr. Barton he rather regarded as mischievously unprincipled, excessively jealous, and morbidly suspicious; led away by his vanity, and fostering his feelings of dislike, to the bitterness of deadly hatred. I do not pretend here to use the exact *words* of Dr. Eberle; his *idea*, as expressed to me on numerous occasions, of Dr. Barton's character, I have endeavoured to convey as briefly as possible. Dr. Eberle considered Dr. M'Clellan as more desperately unprincipled than Dr. Barton—one who regarded the *means* as always justified by the *end*—who was not only totally destitute of veracity, but would, at any moment, sacrifice his best friend to gain his object—that it was hazardous to consult with Dr. M'Clellan, as he was so accustomed to misrepresent cases, that no man's reputation was safe in his hands.

Dr. Barton was not wanting, on his part, in the free expression of his opinions of some of his colleagues. His favourite epithet, almost constantly applied when speaking of one of the trustees, was so profane and abusive, that from regard to the highly respectable family of this trustee, I shall not mention it.

Dr. M'Clellan he represented as so unprincipled and so universally detested by the members of the profession generally, that the school would never prosper while he continued connected with it; and that it need not be expected, the respectable members of the profession would connect themselves with Jefferson faculty, so long as Dr. M'Clellan continued a member.

I have already alluded to the efforts of a majority of the faculty to get rid of Dr. Barton during the session of 1826 and 27, and the early part of the succeeding spring. Although I had no personal respect for Dr. Barton, and would have rejoiced, heartily, to have seen him separated in some honourable way from the Jefferson medical faculty; yet I could not reconcile it with what I deemed due to an associate, however unworthy, not to apprise him of the designs which were plotting his destruction as a professor.

Previously to this, however, I had made considerable efforts to dissuade the enemies of Dr. Barton from prosecuting their plans, as the character of the college could not but sustain injury in public estimation, from these open and unceasing disputes among its professors.

Finding, however, that these plans were deep laid and indefatigably persevered in, I called on Dr. Barton for the express purpose of apprising him of their existence, and suggested to him the propriety of counter-acting them, by making interest with the additional trustees.

In his reply to these remarks, he bid defiance to their efforts, and threatened to destroy their charter, which he said was forfeited in case of his removal.

However regardless the board of additional trustees may have been, in other instances, in respect to the precepts of the law, they interpreted the act of incorporation very rigidly, so far as regarded the fees of the professors.

It was contended by a majority of the additional trustees, that as only six professorships were recognized in the act of incorporation, and as each professor was prohibited from demanding more than fifteen dollars for each ticket, that in the case of the existence of seven or more professors, the sum total, demanded by them all, ought not to exceed ninety dollars, being the amount of six professors' fees, at fifteen dollars each.

The regulation of the respective fees of the seven chairs was found to be attended with considerable difficulty. Each professor was loud in



the praises of the superior value of his own department, and the extraordinary expenses necessarily connected with the conducting of his course. The plan devised by the enemies of Dr. Barton, was to reduce the fee on his ticket so low, as to constrain him to resign from feelings of mortified pride. On this point, Dr. M'Clellan, Dr. Smith, and Dr. Rhee, were very indefatigable, and the trustees were on the eve of adopting the measure, when Dr. Eberle, becoming alarmed for the safety of the school from the threats of Dr. Barton, arrested the course of proceedings, by detaching Dr. Smith from the combination, by presenting to him in strong colours, the evil consequences which, in all probability, would result from such a course; and also, at the same time, sending in a proposition to the additional trustees, requesting them to reduce the fee on his ticket, in preference to creating difficulties with Dr. Barton.

This manœuvre, on the part of Dr. Eberle, saved Dr. Barton, and afforded the professor of *materia medica* an opportunity, had he possessed magnanimity sufficient to have embraced it, to have evinced his gratitude and disinterestedness of character.

Dr. Eberle had made a considerable pecuniary sacrifice, and had rendered himself obnoxious to the invectives of some of the faculty, in order to save the feelings of Dr. Barton, and retain him in his professorship; yet this *high-minded* professor became quite offended, because I hinted at the propriety of his making up the loss to Dr. Eberle, or at least dividing it with him.

Although I had apprised Dr. Barton of the designs of some of the faculty to displace him, and had made considerable efforts to defeat these designs, and thereby jeopardized my own interests, and had, on all occasions, urged Dr. Eberle to resist their efforts to render him instrumental to their views; yet Dr. Barton had scarcely escaped these machinations of his enemies, when he formed a combination with one of the most active and vituperative of them, Dr. Smith, and these individuals exerted their united influence to prevent, if possible, my being appointed professor in full.

During the existence of this combination of quondam enemies, I remarked to Dr. Eberle, how ungenerous and ungrateful the conduct of Dr. Barton appeared, especially when it was recollected what efforts I had made, and how much I had put at stake to preserve him from the machinations of a party, with one of whom he was then intimately allied, in endeavouring to effect my professional destruction.

Dr. Eberle professed to be highly indignant at such conduct, and on more than one occasion remarked, that if Dr. Barton did not behave himself, he, Dr. Eberle, would take the chair of *materia medica*, which he could at any time obtain.

I feel pretty well satisfied that there was some foundation for the assertion of Dr. M'Clellan, that Dr. Eberle had assented, at one time, to take the chair of *materia medica*, and afterwards refused to accede to the arrangement.

I stepped one afternoon into Dr. Eberle's office, when he observed to me, that he had received a note from Mr. E. Ingersoll, requesting to see him. I accompanied the doctor to Mr. E. Ingersoll's, and on his rejoining me, after the interview, he remarked, that I would be permanently appointed.

A few weeks only had elapsed after this visit, when Dr. M'Clellan charged Dr. Eberle with a want of good faith, in not adhering to the arrangement he had consented to with Mr. E. Ingersoll, of taking the chair of *materia medica*.

I have no doubt, that up to the present moment, I might have remained undisturbedly attached to Jefferson medical faculty, had I united with a majority of the members in their endeavours to accomplish the removal of Dr. Barton.

In the spring of 1827, when these efforts were attempted, it would have required but little persuasion to have induced Dr. Eberle to consent to take Dr. Barton's chair;—that consent obtained, an artful and designing board of additional trustees, would have been at no loss to devise some plan, legal or illegal, to have brought about the removal of Dr. Barton. Dr. Eberle transferred to the chair of *materia medica*, a vacancy would have been created in the chair of practice, and Dr. James Rush seated in this chair, would have been the consummation of the long-laboured plans, and ardent hopes of Dr. M'Clellan; and it is reasonable to conclude, that the restless and persecuting spirit of this intriguing professor would, for a time, have been exorcised to rest, and the professor of midwifery have been permitted to remain in the enjoyment of the peaceable possession of his chair.

But, however easy it may be for some professors to reconcile it to their consciences to sacrifice a colleague to preserve their own stations; and although there may be persons who profess to wear "*the button*" of the Navy of the United States, disposed to act in accordance with such principles; yet so low and despicable a principle of action, never has, and I trust never will constitute the rule of my conduct.

Dr. Barton was, therefore, perfectly safe, so long as his continuance in the faculty depended upon my assenting to, and co-operating in such disreputable transactions.

Notwithstanding all the manœuvring and management of some of the members of Jefferson medical faculty, as a part of which, the *ignoble* and *ungrateful* conduct of Dr. Barton presents itself in bold relief; the board of additional trustees in the month of April, 1827, unanimously recommended me to Canonsburg, to fill the chair of midwifery.

This unanimous vote, however, was only obtained by the absence of the relatives and particular friends of Dr. M'Clellan, Messrs. Ingersoll, Coxe, and Badger; two of whom, it will be presently seen, have been the most active agents in some of the recent transactions.

Soon after my nomination to Canonsburg, I called on the Rev. Dr. Green, president of the board of additional trustees, to tender to him my grateful acknowledgments on the occasion.

In reply to my observations, he remarked, you need not thank me, sir; we have received the most favourable reports in regard to your lectures from every source, and I assure you, sir, our inquiries have been extensive and rigid.

The summer of 1827 passed away with feelings of bitter hostility between professors M'Clellan, Smith, and Rhees, on the one part, and Barton and Eberle, on the other.

On all occasions, I endeavoured to keep free from the collisions of these parties. I felt it my duty, calmly to represent to them, severally, how much the dignity and prosperity of the institution, and consequently, the pecuniary advantages to be derived from the professorships, depended, at least, upon an *apparent* cordiality and *show* of friendship among its professors. The *reality* of friendship I never urged; I had seen sufficient to satisfy me of the utter impracticability of that, as the members of the faculty were too well acquainted with each others' principles and conduct. Friendship can only exist when founded in esteem.

Language can scarcely convey an adequate idea of the appearance of the faculty meetings at this time; each meeting, rather resembled a kennel of strange dogs, let loose upon each other, than an assemblage of professional gentlemen. Tantalizing remarks, insulting observations, and school-boy challenges, constituted the prominent features.

It was about this period, I think, the exact time, however, I cannot precisely state, that Dr. M'Clellan being desirous of securing the influence of a medical gentleman of political standing, offered to him, in the first instance, the chair of Dr. Rhees, and observed, if he did not like that chair, he could have the chair of Dr. Barton, as he, Dr. M'Clellan

lan, had no doubt he could so manage it with the board of trustees, as to have Dr. Barton removed.

The session of 1827 and 28 commenced under very blighted prospects. The pamphlet of Dr. Beattie had been widely circulated, and not replied to, because its contents were known to be substantially correct;\* and a feeling of public indignation against the proceedings of the additional trustees and Jefferson medical faculty, was correspondingly extant. The medical class, therefore, was not so numerous, by one half, as had been anticipated. This diminished class rendered the co-lessees less able to bear with equanimity, the award of one thousand dollars, which was returned by the arbitrators, in the case of the ejection of Dr. Beattie from the Prune street building.

About a fortnight before the close of the last course of lectures, I received a note from Dr. Eberle, requesting to see me. I called accordingly, when he apprised me that some of the students had expressed dissatisfaction with my lectures. Upon our adverting to whom these students were, we found that, with the exception of one or two, they were private pupils of Dr. M'Clellan's.

Dr. Eberle expressed to me his conviction, that it was a base plot, got up for some sinister design, and *that he would stand by me to the last.*

The same evening, I called on a respectable member of the class, and mentioned to him what I had heard, and desired him to tell me, candidly, all he knew of the business. He observed, that he was extremely sorry the report had reached me, as he regarded it of so little importance, that I ought not to give it a moment's consideration. That if any dissatisfaction existed, it was confined to a small faction of Dr. M'Clellan's students, who wished to get Dr. Rush into the faculty: that they had mentioned the subject to him, and stated their object; but that he felt for them only disgust and contempt, and he was certain, such were the prevailing sentiments of the class towards them, and that their number could not exceed six or eight.

Intelligence having spread among the class, that I had received intimation of the designs of this faction; the other members, collectively and individually, seemed as if they could not express with sufficient warmth their respectful regards; each time I met them, they greeted me with the warmest marks of approbation; and several of the members called on me, and wished me to allow them to call the class together, to pass a vote of approbation in respect to my lectures.

A few days before the close of the course, I observed to professor Green, I had ascertained that some of the students had made an attempt to excite the class against me, but had failed in their object.

He then said, that he must apologize to me for having observed to Dr. M'Clellan and some persons else, that I must be removed from the faculty; as he had made the remark, under the impression that the class generally were dissatisfied with my lectures, whereas it appeared it was only a small faction, and that the lectures he had heard me deliver were very good. Only a few days after this, however, when Dr. Eberle asked professor Green if all things were at rest in regard to my chair, as he must be convinced the class generally approved of my lectures, he made this very singular reply, especially when taken in connexion with what he had previously said to me—"I have no doubt, but that the trustees will abolish the chair of midwifery the ensuing summer, and I would not turn a finger in regard to it, one way or the other."

The session closed, and the faculty meetings which took place, daily,

\* Except a short reply by Dr. Eberle, in regard to the charge of duplicity, in respect to his conduct to Dr. Ducachette, which was considered so unsatisfactory by the members of the faculty and the additional trustees, that a general feeling of regret prevailed with them, that the doctor should have committed himself by so feeble a vindication.



for the examination of candidates for graduation, presented a most singular appearance, when contrasted with previous exhibitions. *These very high-minded and honourable professors*, who so long had been wont to brand each other with epithets as contemptuous and vile as language could afford, were now seen most sociably and happily congregating together; enjoying, no doubt, in anticipation, the pecuniary advantage they would individually derive from their united efforts to sacrifice a colleague.

There was one exception, however, to the harmony of these meetings. After the general examinations had closed, Dr. M'Clellan created some difficulty in regard to the graduation of some of the candidates, and Dr. Eberle charged Dr. M'Clellan with producing these difficulties, purposely to obtain these students as private pupils during the summer. Dr. M'Clellan pronounced him, in the presence of Dr. Ely and the members of the faculty, as no gentleman, for making such an assertion. Dr. Eberle afterwards in private reiterated the charge to me, and said, the reason Dr. M'Clellan became so angry, was because he knew the charge to be true.

I understand, that since the late disturbances in the faculty, all the members disclaim any participation in the proceedings; I will only mention one fact, which speaks volumes on the subject. Since the close of the last course of lectures, not a single professor has called on me, with the exception of Dr. Rhees, who called and left his card, a few days before these proceedings acquired notoriety.

Having offered, as we think, sufficient evidence to enable an enlightened community to form a pretty correct estimate of the members of the medical faculty of Jefferson College; let us now direct our attention to the board of additional trustees, and see whether their conduct presents a brighter moral picture.

It appears from evidence which has recently transpired, that soon after the last public commencement, the additional trustees, or at least some of them, began to tamper with Dr. Eberle in regard to his relinquishing the chair of practice, in order that Dr. Rush might be introduced into the faculty of the college.

The first plan of the additional trustees, directed and instigated no doubt by some of the members of the faculty, was to prevail on Dr. Eberle to take the chair of midwifery, and relinquish the chair of practice, with a distinct understanding, that, for the ensuing season, he should lecture on both practice and midwifery, and receive the emoluments of the two chairs. When speaking on this subject recently, Dr. Eberle remarked; that Dr. M'Clellan expected, in this manner, to bribe him; but that he, Dr. Eberle, had sent a letter to the additional trustees, declining to enter into the arrangement; and thus for a time broke up their schemes.

Failing in this device, the next plan of the additional trustees, if the evidence of Dr. Eberle is to be relied on, was to compel Dr. Eberle, by threats of removal from the institution, to consent to resign the chair of practice, and take that of midwifery;—this consent being obtained, a committee of the additional trustees waited on Dr. James Rush, and solicited him to consent to take the chair of practice. According to the evidence, however, of the friends of Dr. Rush, it appears that when the committee of the additional trustees, Judge Coxe and Mr. E. Ingersoll, waited on Dr. Rush, he asked them if his going into the institution would be the cause of removing any professor, as in that case he would not consent to take a situation in the school. At this time, the committee were not prepared to answer him; but called a second time, and stated that his accepting the appointment would not interfere with any of the professors, as it was already decided that Dr. Rhees and Dr. Barnes should leave the institution, and that they were in fact virtually removed. On this assurance, Dr. Rush assented to take the appointment.

Several weeks, however, had elapsed, without Dr. Rush hearing any thing from the additional trustees; but intelligence had reached him, that "much tricking and confusion" was going on in the institution, in consequence of which, Dr. Rush wrote to the additional trustees, informing them of what he had heard, withdrawing at the same time his name, and declaring he would have nothing to do with them.

Immediately, or shortly after this, the same committee of the additional trustees again called on Dr. Rush, and stated that what he had heard was not true; but that all things were going on well in the institution, and they wished him to continue his assent to join the faculty. Dr. Rush refusing to grant his assent under the then existing circumstances; he received a letter from Dr. Eberle, stating, in general terms, that what he, Dr. Rush, had heard, was without foundation; but that, on the contrary, he, Dr. Eberle, was very desirous of having the arrangement consummated, and that he considered the prosperity of Jefferson College depended upon Dr. Rush's taking the chair of practice; and Dr. Eberle also stated in this letter, that he had resigned the chair of practice forever in Jefferson College in favour of Dr. Rush, and that he had done so, *without any over-persuasion, and of his own free will.*

In consequence of the receipt of this letter, and assurances on the part of the committee of the additional trustees, Dr. Rush again assented to join the faculty; and the board of additional trustees had the proposition before them to transfer Dr. Eberle to the chair of midwifery, and appoint Dr. Rush to the chair of practice; when Dr. Sutherland returned from Washington City, and on attending the meeting of the board, wished to know what was to become of Dr. Barnes, in this proposed arrangement. He will resign, was the reply. I am not so certain of that, said Dr. Sutherland; I must see Dr. Barnes myself, and have something authentic on the subject. This led to a postponement of the meeting of the board, from the 13th to the 16th of June, when Dr. Sutherland apprised me of what was transacting; *which was the first intimation* I had of any proceedings of the board of additional trustees in regard to my chair; and which afforded me, for the first time, an opportunity to present my memorial of the 16th of June.

What member of the board of additional trustees, could have been so destitute of veracity as to have uttered the deliberate falsehood of my willingness to resign, I have never ascertained. A short time, however, previous to my being apprised of these *secret proceedings* of the board of additional trustees; Dr. Ely called at my house, *apparently* in the most friendly manner, and among other remarks, asked me how I was coming on with practice. In reply, I observed, that it required some time to regain practice, after an absence so long as mine had been from the city; but that it was increasing, and I had no doubt of ultimate success. He then said, if you cannot get along, some of us are willing to make up a purse for you, provided you wish to leave the city. I told him I had no such intention;—he then said, suppose the class should be no larger than it was last winter; do you think you can get along? I told him, I had no doubt that I could. He then remarked, that he had a large sum of money at stake in the new hall; that he was not only anxious about the interest of that, but he also felt responsible, that those also should receive their interest who had invested with him; that the professors must all pay up promptly; but unfortunately the most of them were poor. I replied, that I regarded the payment of the rent as the next thing to a sacred duty, and that I considered the first money received from the sale of tickets as pledged for its payment.

Although this visit was made after the plan for my removal to make a vacancy for Dr. Rush was matured, and eight out of ten of the additional trustees, of whom Dr. Ely was one, were pledged to vote for Dr.



Rush; yet Dr. Ely, notwithstanding I stated to him explicitly; I was reviewing and enlarging my lectures, and expected to deliver a much fuller course at the ensuing season than I had done, did not say one word of what was going forward in the board of additional trustees; but freely gave his opinion and advice in regard to the delivery of the next course of lectures, and parted from me, *apparently* in the most friendly and social manner. So well was this *deceptive* visit conducted, I soon after called on Dr. Eberle and observed to him, that whatever schemes and plans might have been in agitation in regard to my chair, they had certainly all been abandoned, as Dr. Ely had paid me a very friendly visit, and unreservedly imparted his advice in respect to the next course of lectures. Dr. Eberle observed, he was not so certain of that; he still believed there was something going on. I told him it was impossible; as Dr. Ely would never have paid me the kind of visit he had done, had the most remote possibility existed in regard to my removal.

On Sunday the 15th of June, the day preceding the presentation of my memorial, a gentleman and myself were walking with Dr. Sutherland, who was on his way to Dr. Ely's church, when I remarked; that I thought I might rely upon the firmness and justice of my neighbour, the Rev. Mr. Livingston, who, on various occasions, had always appeared very friendly disposed towards me. Dr. Sutherland replied, "*he is a clergyman, and you cannot trust him; they all hang together.*" On another occasion, in the presence of the same gentleman, Dr. Sutherland further remarked, "*that he was astonished at the apathy with which these clergymen could sit, and vote away the character and support of a man.*"

We regret that we can only in part raise the veil, which conceals the proceedings of the meeting of the additional trustees of the 16th of June, memorable for the celebrated resolution, declaring the vacation of all the chairs—the law of the land, and their official oath, to the contrary notwithstanding.

At that meeting, upon the reading of my memorial, Dr. Sutherland informed me; that had the additional trustees not been pledged to vote for Dr. Rush, the whole business would have dropt. They stood pledged, however, and there appeared no way to get rid of that pledge. I told them, said Dr. Sutherland, that Dr. Rush would suffer less sacrifice of character and feeling than Dr. Barnes, should he not receive the appointment; as Dr. Barnes would be displaced from office, whereas Dr. Rush would only be disappointed of office. I told them, said Dr. Sutherland; "*we, at least, have honour on our side, and it is more honourable to desert a dishonourable pledge than adhere to it.*"\*

Dr. Sutherland also informed me, that, at this same meeting, Mr. E. Ingersoll observed; "*We have no objection to give Dr. Barnes TESTIMONIALS OF HIS COMPETENCY AND FAITHFUL PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES.*"

The board of additional trustees, however, stood pledged to Dr. Rush, and there appeared no way to escape from this pledge. At last it was resolved to pass a resolution to vacate all the chairs; and so fearful were the disorganizers in the board, that the subject might be reconsidered, and the medical faculty permitted to remain as previously arranged; that

\* This "*dishonourable pledge*" was, however, got rid of, and that too without any redeeming honour; and although I am not disposed to quarrel with Judge Coxe and Mr. E. Ingersoll, for denouncing their fellow-trustees as destitute of principle, and persons they would no longer associate with; yet I do think the charge comes with a very bad grace from these two trustees, who were, in a great measure, the originators and active agents, in connexion with some of the faculty, of a very considerable part of the disgraceful and dishonourable proceedings, in regard to my rights, as a professor in Jefferson Medical College.

the resolution declaring the vacation of the chairs, which was only carried by one vote, was despatched to Canonsburg by mail the same night it was adopted, although the board did not adjourn until 11 o'clock, P. M.

Having business not connected with the college affairs, to transact with Dr. Eberle, I called at his house the next day after I had received the official notice of the resolution of the 16th of June, which professed to vacate all the chairs. I asked him if he had expected such a resolution; he replied, he had not; it utterly surprised him; that he had expected to hear of his being transferred to the chair of midwifery, and Dr. Rush appointed to the chair of practice. When I stated to him my surprise at his conduct, and remonstrated with him for consenting to such an arrangement, he replied; "*I assure you, it was a heart-rending thing to me; but I was told, that if I did not come into the measure, I would be deprived of my situation in the school entirely; and when I looked at my family, the relinquishment of the college seemed too great a sacrifice for me to make, and I could not resist. It is true, I have been deceived by these men: I have been imposed upon.*"

Dr. Eberle also mentioned to me, that he had stated to Mr. Coxe, that sooner than lose his situation as a professor in the college, he might consent to take the chair of midwifery, and relinquish the chair of practice; although he considered the arrangement which had heretofore existed, both in point of talents and acquirements, as better than any other they could adopt.

After Dr. Sutherland had apprised me of this *clandestine attempt* of the board of additional trustees to ruin my professional standing, I could not condescend to have any personal intercourse with any of those whom I believed to be engaged in the plot.

Considering the Rev. Mr. Livingston, however, as a stranger in the board of additional trustees; and fearing that he might be liable to be ensnared, innocently, by the deep wiles of the Rev. Dr. Ely, and the Rev. Dr. Green; I deemed it my duty to have an interview with him, and endeavour to explain to him as clearly as I could, how much intrigue and management had existed in the institution. A medical gentleman, a mutual friend, also called on him, to corroborate what I had said. Although he professed great ignorance of the transactions then going forward, and seemed thankful for the information communicated; yet it appears that at this very time, he was one of those, who, in the language of Dr. Sutherland, had united in a "*dishonourable pledge*;" and although he resides within a few steps of my house, and was almost in the daily habit of meeting me; yet he never intimated in the slightest degree, that any measures were before the board, detrimental to my interests.

During one of my interviews with Mr. Livingston, after these college concerns became notorious, the conversation turned on the different medical gentlemen, more or less connected with this business; and it was really amusing to hear his inquiries on the occasion. When the name of a medical gentleman was introduced, scarcely a question would be started in regard to his professional standing, or medical acquirements; but in almost every instance, Mr. Livingston would ask, who is he? *what church does he belong to?*"

On one occasion, Mr. Livingston expressed great regret at being a member of the board, and professed to be at a loss how to act. His course, I told him, was a very plain one: you have entered the institution with the professorships filled, and so long as there are no charges against the professors, retain and support them in their stations. It appears, he observed, that the professors may be removed from this institution, without any charges being preferred against them; and I should be unwilling to accept a professorship in such an establishment.

On another occasion, in reply to some remarks of mine, on the conduct of the board of additional trustees, he seemed to justify their proceedings by observing; that it only appeared to him, that the board regarded one arrangement as more expedient than another.

Hear, said I, what Sir Walter Scott says about expediency, in his *Life of Napoleon*; and then read to him the following passage:

"But the principle, mainly rested upon and avowed, is in plain language a gross and indecent sophism, '*that which policy renders necessary, justice must of course authorize*,' thus openly placing interest in diametrical opposition to that which is honourable or honest; or, in other words, making the excess of the temptation, a justification for the immorality of the action. This is the same principle which sends the robber on the high road, and upon which almost every species of villany is committed, excepting those rare enormities which are practised without any visible motive on the part of the perpetrators."

Finding that the only ground upon which he pretended to justify his own conduct and that of his colleagues, was of such a character, he blushed and made no reply. I then said to him, suppose some of your congregation were to see a clergyman in your church, whom they thought they might like better than yourself, and were, without any previous warning, and without any charges presented against you, to direct you forthwith to leave the pulpit, and remove from the parsonage, and yourself and family be thus turned out on the world, houseless and destitute; would you not regard it as a very tyrannical and unchristian act?

After the deceptive publication of the additional trustees, signed by the Rev. Ezra Stiles Ely, announcing the ensuing course of lectures, Mr. Livingston again called on me, and observed that he had been absent from the city, and was surprised, on his return, to see the advertisement. Suppose, sir, I said to him, I were to announce to-morrow, in the public papers, that your pulpit was vacant; what would you think of it? I should think it very strange, he said: would you not regard it, I remarked, as a false and unfounded statement? and yet this deceptive publication appears before the world, with the name of an avowed minister of the gospel of truth attached to it!

You should not condemn religion, he observed, because its ministers act improperly. No, sir, I replied, I would be the last man to breathe a word against religion, but I think it a duty we all owe to society, to expose such proceedings. He then remarked, you are in the vigour of life, and will be able to support your family. I observed to him, suppose I were beset on the highway by a gang of ruffians, and robbed of all I possessed, would it lessen their criminality, if I afterwards should possess health and vigour sufficient to provide bread for my family?

I might go on and augment this publication to an unreasonable extent; but I shall terminate these remarks by a few reflections, trusting that every person who feels any interest on the subject, will do me the justice to peruse attentively the official documents.

The foundation of all the circumstances which have kept the medical faculty of Jefferson College from its origin, in so perturbed a state; has been the premeditated determination of a party, composed of some of the members of the faculty and additional trustees, to introduce Dr. James Rush into the institution. We have already seen what various devices have been adopted for the accomplishment of this object. The failure of their plans heretofore may be ascribed to the partisans of Dr. Rush, having never succeeded until lately in gaining over to their views, the clerical members and their adherents.

It is well known, that previously to the erection of the new hall, not a word was ever uttered by Dr. Ely about the members of the Jefferson



faculty not being rich; and it is also well known, that Dr. Ely and Dr. Green were decidedly opposed to Dr. Rush.

Dr. Ely, in the spring of 1827, distinctly stated to me, that if the chair of practice were vacant, Dr. Rush would not be the person he would select to fill it. After the erection, however, of this new hall, of which Dr. Ely and his immediate family connexions own, I believe, at least nine-tenths, we find him uniting, heart and hand, with the friends of Dr. Rush.

New motives of action have thus been recently presented. The deep-laid principle of moral depravity, the

Auri sacra fames,

*Avarice*, has been the talismanic power, by which this union of parties has been brought about.

The movements of Dr. Ely in this business, it appears to me, cannot be misunderstood. The prospect of getting rid of a *precarious stock investment*, by disposing of a considerable part of it to the wealthy connexions of Dr. Rush, was too tempting to be disregarded. The introduction of Dr. James Rush into the faculty, was therefore decided on; and some one must be sacrificed to make place for him. It was my fate to be the selected victim; and the very first movement in this iniquitous course, was a futile attempt to excite the class against me: failing in this, however, they determined to accomplish their object *clandestinely*, and would, no doubt, have succeeded, had not Dr. Sutherland exposed and defeated their machinations. Their continued persecution of me, since this defeat, is, I believe, intended to give an appearance of consistency to their previous absurd and unprincipled conduct; and having failed in obtaining the sanction of the board at Canonsburg in respect to such conduct, at the extra-meeting called expressly for that purpose; they adopted the unwarrantable and dishonourable course of public official misrepresentation, by which the board of trustees at Canonsburg were constrained, had they even been otherwise disposed, to sanction their measures.

The mysterious and inconsistent conduct of Dr. Eberle, throughout this business, is before the world, and it must abide the decision of the tribunal of public opinion.

Previously to these transactions, I had been intimately acquainted with Dr. Eberle for nearly ten years.

He was the only member of the faculty for whom I had any esteem; and on his friendship, rectitude, and firmness, I confess, I did rely for aid against the machinations of his colleagues.

It is true, I was cautioned repeatedly not to trust to his professions; but to all such intimations, I turned a deaf ear.

Unhappily for the doctor, perhaps from a want of moral courage, he has permitted himself to be made subservient to the purposes of others.

But few years since, and Dr. Eberle was esteemed by almost every physician of eminence in this city; unfortunately for him, he formed in an evil hour an alliance with some members of the medical profession, who have instigated him to a course of conduct, which has alienated from him the esteem of almost all others.

At present, he seems to have put himself at the disposal of Dr. Barton and Dr. Ely, and no doubt calculates on being amply rewarded for his subserviency, from the proceeds of his double professorship.

We cannot, however, but look to the period as not far distant, when the doctor himself, may become the victim of those whom he now so faithfully serves: when no longer necessary to their purposes, they will throw him aside, as a thing for which they have no further use.

I feel it due to general Wm. Duncan, to except him from the censure which must necessarily apply to *all the other members* of the board of ad-

ditional trustees. I believe that he was kept in ignorance of the artful plans of his associates, and that *he* is an honest and upright man.

Nor must I omit to tender my sincere and grateful acknowledgments to Craig Ritchie, Esq. and the other trustees of the board at Canonsburg, who united with him in a bold and manly, but ineffectual stand, against the efforts of tyranny and oppression, in vindication of the rights of the injured.

JOHN BARNES, M. D.

*Philadelphia, October 1st, 1828.*



## OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, &c.

No. 1.

[This document is published as originally presented, with the exception of two or three complimentary phrases to one of the professors and the additional trustees, which it is due to justice and truth to omit.]

### MEMORIAL TO THE ADDITIONAL TRUSTEES.

*Philadelphia, June 16, 1828.*

*To the President and members of the board of additional trustees.*

Gentlemen,—Having been informed by J. B. Sutherland, Esq. a member of the board of trustees of Jefferson Medical College, on Saturday last the 14th inst., that a proposition had been made to the board, at their meeting on Friday evening, to vacate the chair of midwifery; I would respectfully offer a few facts and remarks for the consideration of the board.

About the beginning of October, 1826, I was appointed, by a unanimous vote of the additional trustees to deliver a course of lectures on midwifery, &c. in Jefferson Medical College.

That course of lectures was delivered, and at the public commencement for conferring degrees, Dr. Ely stated in his address to the audience, that all the lectures had been entirely satisfactory.

On the 23d of April, 1827, I received the following communication, bearing the same date:

“Dear Sir,—I have the pleasure to inform you, that a resolution passed the board on the 21st inst. by a unanimous vote, to recommend you to the general board to fill the chair of midwifery and the diseases of women and children; and you may expect the appointment in due season.

“You are thus placed, as far as it depends on the additional trustees, on the same footing with the other professors.”

“I am, with great regard, your obt. servant and friend,

“JAMES M. BROOM, Sec’y pro tem. add. board

“trustees, Jefferson College, med. dept.

“Dr. JOHN BARNES.”

The second course of lectures commenced in November, 1827, and about the middle of January following, when the course was about two-thirds advanced, I received by mail the following communication:

“*Canonsburg, Jan. 8th, 1828.*

“Dear Sir,—I am authorized to announce to you, that agreeably to the nomination and resolution of the additional trustees of the Medical school, Philad., this board have, unanimously appointed you professor of midwifery in the medical school of Jefferson College, Philada.

“I am, very respectfully, yours, &c.

“MW. BROWN.”

Thus it would appear from official documents, that I was *unanimously* appointed, in the first instance, to deliver a probationary course of lectures; that *subsequently* to the delivery of that course, I was *unanimously* recommended to the general board at Canonsburg, by the board of additional trustees of this city; that upon that recommendation I was *unanimously* appointed professor, and that after delivering about the *third part* of a course of lectures, *subsequent* to that announcement, a proposition is brought before the additional trustees, *without any direct intimation to me*, to vacate the chair of midwifery.

I beg leave respectfully to state, that until within a fortnight of the commencement of the last course of lectures, it was expected and distinctly understood, that I was only to lecture three times in each week, and the price of the ticket was adapted to correspond to this arrangement. After the resignation, however, of Dr. Smith, and after it had been decided that Dr. McClellan should deliver the two courses of anatomy and surgery, much difficulty was experienced in appropriating the hours to each respective professor.

Dr. McClellan stated it to be indispensable, that he should deliver both courses in the morning, in order to have sufficient light for his demonstrations, and he also desired, that as many hours as possible might intervene between the lectures on the two branches. After considerable consultation, it was found, that provided I would take the hour from eleven to twelve, such an arrangement would be entirely satisfactory to all: but here another difficulty presented; that hour, unless the regular lectures were broken in upon one day in the week, would require *four* lectures instead of *three*, and no professor seemed willing to take the extra hour.

Desirous, however, of accommodating Dr. McClellan, and preserving the harmony of the faculty, I consented to take the additional hour, although it would exact one-fourth more duty from me than was in accordance with the price of my ticket.

Although this extra and unexpected duty was assumed, gratuitously, at the commencement of the course, I feel a satisfaction in stating, that during this, as well as the previous session, I did not omit a single lecture; but on the contrary, I believe and trust, that I faithfully discharged all my duties to the college.

About two weeks before the close of the last course of lectures, I received information, that some dissatisfaction existed against me among a small number of the members of the class, who had agreed to circulate a petition for signatures to present to the trustees, requesting my removal; that their design was to get rid of me, in order to transfer Dr. Eberle to my chair, and thus make room for Dr. Rush to take the chair of practice.

Several medical gentlemen, not connected with the school, called on me about the same time, for the express purpose, as they stated, to apprise me that some deep designs were evidently going on, with the view of depriving me of my professorship; that I might rely on it, some of the professors were at the bottom of the business, and that it would require the utmost vigilance on my part to defeat their *machinations*.

I inquired, at the time, of some of the intelligent members of the class, what was the probable number of those students engaged in the plot against me; they assured me, the number at most did not exceed ten, and that so far as the other members of the class had become apprised of the design, they were highly incensed. Several members of the class stated to me, that they were desirous of calling a meeting of the students, with the view of passing a vote of approbation in regard to my lectures. This, however, I declined, as I did not believe that it comported with the dignity of my situation to depend on any other source than the firmness and justice of the trustees, in order to retain my professorship in the institution.

When I delivered my valedictory lecture, in which I alluded to the manner in which I had conducted the course, it was received with marks of warm approbation.

I had other reasons than those above stated, for believing that the dissatisfaction did not originate with the students. It must be obvious, on a moment's reflection, that gentlemen just commencing the study of a profession, cannot be the most capable judges of the merits of a lecturer, and every medical gentleman knows how easily an excitement may be produced in a class.

The class at the University of Pennsylvania affords ample experience of this, under the most learned and capable professors.

At the very foundation of *this* college, and before its incorporation, there was a strong wish to place Dr. Rush in the chair of practice, not on account of his abilities so much as his wealth and style of living, which it was thought would increase the popularity of the school.

Letters to gentlemen of the legislature whilst the bill was pending, disclosed the intention. Since that period this object has not been lost sight of; attempts were made to remove Dr. Rhee's for this purpose; and I feel convinced, that the course pursued against myself is to be attributed to the same cause.

I feel no disposition, except in self-defence, to make an attack on any one, or to involve myself or the institution in an unpleasant dispute; but, were it necessary, I have been offered documents and proofs, which will convince the most prejudiced mind.

Notwithstanding all the influence which was used with the class, the members of which knew nothing of Dr. Rush's talents as a lecturer, a few only were led away.

It will be recollected, that before and after my predecessor was removed, there was great anxiety expressed by one member of the faculty to place Dr. Eberle in the chair of midwifery. The circumstances have no doubt reached your ears, and I need not enter into them: it is sufficient to state the fact.

When I was appointed temporarily, Dr. Eberle was still harped on as the man best calculated to ultimately fill the chair which I now hold; he has been applied to repeatedly, and has always refused until lately, when he was induced to believe, that his continuance in the institution depended on his accepting a chair, for which he is certainly not so well qualified as for the one which he now fills.

The professor who has always been so anxious to have Dr. Rush, knows perfectly well whose students took part against my predecessor; he also knows as well, whose students expressed dissatisfaction with me. But Dr. Rush must be appointed; and thus the plan was to attack any other professor, dispose of Dr. Eberle, and give the most honourable chair to Dr. Rush.

I beg it to be expressly understood, however, that I do not implicate Dr. Rush in this business; on the contrary, I believe, that if he knew the intrigues which have been carried on, he would at once discard every idea of a chair.

I am well convinced, that the only reason why I am attacked, is not that I have proved incompetent; but that I am in the way of a *plan* and of *planners*, and that any other man in the same chair would be attacked from the same motives.

It has been represented to the board of trustees, that I have not complied with my pecuniary obligations to the faculty. I can only say, that from the time I was attached to the institution, I have paid my proportion of the rent and other current expenses, when called upon; and the only item which can be against me, in this respect, is the sum of ten dollars, which was paid by me to Dr. Smith, dean of the faculty; but for which I have had no credit.

This trifling sum, however, is not worth disputing about; I will pay it again.

I have endeavoured, on all occasions, studiously to avoid entering into any of the intrigues, personal disputes, and open quarrels, which have unhappily agitated the members of Jefferson medical faculty.

At the time I joined the institution, some of the faculty were busily engaged in devising some plan for the removal of the professor of the institutes. This was only a short time before the commencement of my first course; but previously to its termination, the current of displacement set strongly against Dr. Barton, professor of materia medica, whose removal a majority of the faculty seemed resolved on accomplishing; they represented him as a very indifferent lecturer, whose manners were extremely unpopular with the class, and whose removal was demanded for the welfare of the school.

My appointment for the professorship was then pending, and I was strenuously urged to participate in their efforts for his removal, and was even told by some of the faculty, that my permanent appointment rested exclusively on the ejection of Dr. Barton. I rejected the proposition, and even went so far as to state to some of the faculty, that I would not countenance the removal of any professor to secure my own appointment.

It appears, however, that it has now become my turn to be the victim of this restless and persecuting spirit.

During my connexion with Jefferson College, I have pursued a line of conduct congenial to my feelings, in keeping myself entirely aloof from any thing likely to create discord among my colleagues. And in leaving to the trustees every thing connected with the disposition of the chairs, and the business of the institution, I have relied on their justice and firmness to protect me in this course, trusting that they are fully convinced, that the character of the institution, its future usefulness, and its permanent respectability, mainly depend on the officers of the institution relying with confidence on the stability of their appointments. An intimation has been held out to me to resign my chair. To this I answer, that during sixteen years which I have been in the profession, I have gained a reputation, which at present is my sole property; that were I possessed of wealth, I could not under the present circumstances resign. Insinuations have been thrown out against my medical character, and my resignation would be looked upon as my own seal to incompetency.

I fear the result of no fair investigation, and should the board of additional trustees have any doubts in regard to the manner in which I have performed my duties in the institution, I would respectfully ask, as an act of justice to myself, and as due to the high and responsible station which they hold; that before the adoption of any measures likely to destroy my reputation and standing in society, and perhaps to injure the institution over which they preside, that they would feel it incumbent on them, to appoint a committee of inquiry to ascertain the circumstances of the case.

I have the honour to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN BARNES.

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## No. II.

"Dear Sir,—I enclose you a copy of the resolutions passed by the board of additional trustees of Jefferson College on the evening of the 16th instant, just received by me.

"J. EBERLE, Dean of the late faculty.

"June 17th, 1828."



"Sir,—I deem it right to apprise you, and, through you, the medical faculty of Jefferson College, that at a meeting of the board of additional trustees held last evening, it was *resolved*,

"That it is expedient to re-organize the medical faculty of Jefferson College, by vacating *all* the chairs, and filling them by new appointments."

"This resolution has already been forwarded to Canonsburg; and the additional trustees will soon proceed to a selection of candidates to the general board for the new appointments.

"In the mean time the competition is perfectly open.

"Respectfully, your obedient servant,

"EDWARD INGERSOLL,

"Secretary of the additional trustees.

"To Dr. EBERLE, Dean of the medical faculty of Jefferson College.

"June 17th, 1828."

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### No. III.

Copy of a letter to Mr. William Ritchie, of this city, enclosing a copy of my memorial, No. 1, which letter and memorial he transmitted to his father, Craig Ritchie, Esq. of Canonsburg, one of the trustees of Jefferson College.

*Philadelphia, June 18th, 1828.*

Dear Sir,—I would thank you to transmit this communication to your father at Canonsburg, it being a correct copy of that which I handed to the Hon. J. B. Sutherland, to be presented to the board of additional trustees, and which was presented by him at their meeting of the 16th inst.

The truth of the facts stated, I am prepared to substantiate by ample proofs.

For any inaccuracies in composition, I would plead the shortness of the time afforded me for its preparation, as I had not the slightest information, that the board of additional trustees had any intention of acting in any measure, in respect to my chair; until Dr. Sutherland informed me on Saturday the 14th instant, he expected, that, on Monday evening following, they would pass a resolution to request the vacation of my chair, in order that Dr. Eberle might be transferred to it, and Dr. Rush be appointed to fill his chair, and he Dr. S. was requested to ask me if I would resign.

I have understood, that they declined appointing any committee of investigation, as they had no charges to prefer against me; but have evaded the demand by passing a resolution, in the absence of one member, at least, by a majority of one vote, to vacate *all* the chairs.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant and friend,

JOHN BARNES.

Mr. RITCHIE, Arch street.

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### No. IV.

Copy of a letter from Dr. Jesse R. Burden, state senator, to James Kerr, Esq., of Washington county, Pennsylvania, one of the trustees of Jefferson College.

*Philadelphia, June 18th, 1828.*

"Dear Sir,—A majority of *one* of the additional board of trustees, have decided on vacating all the chairs in the school, for the purpose



of removing a man, against whose medical talents, against whose character as a lecturer and a man, they knew nothing; charge nothing; but who is intended to be removed for the purpose of getting in another. I beg you will not act too hastily on the recommendation of the board here, and that you will feel your ground before you resort to a measure which will deeply injure, if not totally destroy the institution.

"As a member of the legislature, I was the first mover to incorporate the college. The members from your section of the country know my exertions on that occasion; and my course during and since that, must show that I have no feelings but for the welfare of the institution.

"From my knowledge of the intrigue that has been carried on for some time, I fear that an exposure would throw great stigma on the school; and that exposure must take place, if the professor of midwifery falls a victim to the persecution.

"Dr. Sutherland, and other influential men in society, are in direct opposition to the measure, and indeed we have seen too much of the Beattie affair, which was disgraceful, to wish a repetition. The letter to your board was despatched the night the resolution was carried, by one vote, and I beg you to pause before you act.

"Certainly the vacation of *all* the chairs, requires something more to be sent you, than a *mere* resolution.

"The fact is, that without any notification to Dr. Barnes, a gentleman, was solicited to take the chair of practice, and Dr. Eberle was induced by threats to agree to take the chair of Dr. Barnes.

"Dr. B. heard of the circumstance on Saturday from Dr. Sutherland, and on Monday requested an investigation, if there were any charges against him; to avoid this inquiry all the chairs are *vacated*.

"With Dr. Barnes's talents as a physician and a lecturer, I am intimately acquainted.

"I am a friend of the school; but will never see him causelessly oppressed and trampled on.

"While the act of incorporation was passing, I had many letters; since then I have been well acquainted with all the wheels.

"I have no objection for you to make use of this letter, as you may deem fit.

"I have not the time to say more.

"I could, however, lay some facts before you not so honourable to some of the trustees.

"All I ask, is, that your board will give Barnes a fair inquiry.

"Very respectfully,

"Yours,

"J. R. BURDEN.

"JAMES KERR, Esq."

It having been intimated to me by Dr. Burden, that Dr. Sutherland had mentioned to him, that the board of additional trustees had an account before them, furnished I presume, by some member or members of the medical faculty, in which I was represented as considerably indebted to the faculty, which account, however, has never been presented to, nor seen by me, nor exhibited at any regular meeting of the faculty, to my knowledge; I took occasion to state to Dr. Sutherland explicitly, that whatever sum I was justly indebted, I would cheerfully pay. Fearful, however, that in the hurry and excitement of the business of the meeting of the board, Dr. Sutherland might omit to mention this verbal message, I handed the following communication, to another trustee, my neighbour, the Rev. Mr. Livingston, who promised to present it to the board.

## No. V.

*Philadelphia, June 19th, 1828.**To the president and members of the board of additional trustees:*

Gentlemen,—In regard to the observations which have been made respecting my pecuniary standing with the medical faculty of Jefferson College, I would state, in addition to what I have already said in my memorial to the board of the 16th instant; that should my attachment to the college be regarded as permanently settled; I am perfectly willing, and will be prepared to pay, whatever sum, three or five impartial persons, not connected in any way with the college, shall say, after a full investigation of the pecuniary transactions of the faculty, I am justly entitled to pay.

I am, very respectfully, yours, &amp;c.

JOHN BARNES.

## No. VI.

*" June 23d, 1828.*

" Sir,—I am directed, by a resolution adopted by the additional trustees of Jefferson College, to inform you, that if you desire to be considered a candidate for any of the chairs vacated according to the resolution of the 16th inst., you are respectfully invited to signify your wishes, accordingly, on or before Thursday evening next, at which time it is intended to proceed in the choice of professors; and that the board will understand such only of the gentlemen, heretofore holding chairs, as willing to be candidates, who offer their names for consideration.

" Respectfully, your obedient servant,

" E. INGERSOLL, Secretary, &amp;c.

" Dr. JOHN BARNES."

On Thursday, the 26th of June, I handed to Dr. Sutherland the following communication:

## No. VII.

*To the president and members of the board of additional trustees:*

Gentlemen,—On the morning of the 17th inst., Dr. Eberle, dean of the medical faculty of Jefferson College, transmitted to me the following communication:

(Here was inserted the communication from the additional trustees marked No. 2.)

On the 23d of June, 1828, I received the following communication: (here was inserted No. 6.)

I would very respectfully invite the attention of the board of additional trustees, to that part of the act of the legislature, authorizing the establishment of the board of additional trustees, which defines their powers.

" That it shall and may be lawful for the trustees of the said Jefferson College, to elect ten additional trustees, who may be residents of the city or county of Philadelphia, which additional trustees, or any six of them, may be appointed by the general board of the trustees of said college, a committee to superintend the medical department, giving instruction in the city of Philadelphia, with such powers, as to the appointment and removal of trustees, the holding public commencements, and conferring degrees, as the said general board may direct, and the said

general board of trustees of Jefferson college at Canonsburg, shall have full power to remove the additional trustees, or any of them, or any of the medical professors, at their will and pleasure, any thing in the original act, incorporating the said college, to the contrary notwithstanding."

From a careful perusal of this law, it appears that the power of removing any of the medical professors, is exclusively granted to the general board at Canonsburg, and cannot be delegated to any other body, without a legislative act.

Under this impression, in regard to the spirit and the letter of the law, which is submitted with great deference and respect, for the consideration of the board of additional trustees; I consider myself at present as holding the professorship of midwifery, &c., in Jefferson medical college, by the authority of the general board at Canonsburg; and cannot with propriety, present myself as a candidate to fill a chair which I now occupy under the legal sanction of the institution; but should that chair become vacant, by any official act of the board at Canonsburg, I would in that case, very respectfully wish to be considered as a candidate to supply the vacancy; or should the board of additional trustees, anxious to expedite the re-organization of the medical faculty, be desirous of transmitting names to Canonsburg, in anticipation of expected vacancies, in that case also, I would wish my name to be forwarded for the chair which I now occupy.

I have the honour to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN BARNES.

*Philadelphia, June 26th, 1828.*

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No. VIII.

*Philadelphia, June 27th, 1828.*

Dear Sir,—With the approbation of your son, with whom I have been acquainted several years, I take the liberty of addressing you in regard to some late transactions of the board of additional trustees of Jefferson College.

Last evening the additional trustees had a meeting, and although a committee of the board had previously waited on Dr. Rush, and had obtained his consent to take the chair of practice held by Dr. Eberle, and although Dr. Eberle had been prevailed on by threats to consent to relinquish that chair, with the view of receiving the chair of midwifery; yet Dr. Eberle finding the Rush party, in the board of additional trustees not so strong as he expected, and availing himself of the opportunity afforded by the note of Mr. Ingersoll, of the 23d inst., (for which see the enclosed communication) to request the chair of practice, which he had heretofore so ably filled, and to which he is ardently attached; he was nominated to the same chair, as well as all the other professors to their respective chairs, with the exception of the chair of midwifery, on which no vote of any kind was taken; so that should the general board at Canonsburg pass a resolution in conformity with the resolution of the additional trustees of the 16th inst., my chair in fact would be the only one vacated.

The board of additional trustees I have been informed, have adjourned indefinitely, and left me in this state of suspense.

I can furnish ample testimony to the general board, should it be required, of my character and professional standing, and of the faithful manner, in which I have performed my duties, and the general satisfaction of the medical class, with the exception perhaps of six or ten out of an

hundred students, and these evidently the tools of designing master spirits behind the scene.

I am not apprised of any representations respecting my character or lectures having been made to the board at Canonsburg; should there, however, have been any charges or insinuations, worthy of notice presented, and were they to assume a tangible shape, I pledge my honour, to refute them before any candid and impartial tribunal.

During the whole period my appointment in Jefferson College was pending, I did not, in a single instance, directly or indirectly, obtrude myself or my interests in any manner, on the attention of the general board at Canonsburg; but having been appointed regularly, a professor in the institution, my removal would imply necessarily, incompetency, or some immorality or impropriety of conduct; for it can hardly be conceived, that any gentleman would be removed from a professional situation, without some grounds of complaint. I therefore feel it due to my own character, as well as that of my family, to enter my solemn protest against proceedings, which carry with them marks of management and intrigue, and which, to say the least of them, are calculated to insult my feelings.

I shall resist such conduct as far as practicable; and should it result in my exclusion from the institution, which I can scarcely imagine, it will then be incumbent on me to vindicate, in every possible manner, my character, which I regard as dearer than life itself.

And I cannot but cherish the animating hope, that before the tribunals of justice, in the legislative halls of my country, and especially by enlisting in my behalf, the resistless power of *public opinion*, I shall eventually triumph over tyranny and oppression, although it may wear the mask of corporate power.

In order that the general board may have the business of these *assumed* vacancies and nominations fairly before them, I have taken the liberty of transmitting a copy of my communication of last evening to the board of additional trustees, and would very respectfully ask the favour of you, or one of your friends, to present it to the general board.

I have the honour to be, respectfully,

Your obliged servant,

JOHN BARNES.

CRAIG RITCHIE, Esq., Canonsburg.

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## No. IX.

*Philadelphia, July 21st, 1828.*

Dear Sir,—Your son, in a letter to his brother, of this city, mentions that you have received my papers; that the trustees would meet on the 29th instant; and intimates the propriety of my personal attendance. I sincerely regret that my practice at this season, and especially my domestic affairs, prevent me from visiting Canonsburg.

The kindness with which you have condescended to receive my communications, emboldens me to present for your information a few additional facts and remarks.

I presume the board of additional trustees have apprised the general board of the resignation of two of their members, Mr. Ingersoll and Mr. Coxe. These gentlemen had, for some time been actively engaged in endeavouring to introduce Dr. James Rush into the medical faculty of Jefferson College; but failing in this object, they resigned after the last



meeting of the additional trustees, held on the 26th ult., which closed in great confusion and excitement.

The impression produced on the citizens generally, and particularly the resident members of the medical profession, in consequence of what has already transpired, is calculated to injure materially the reputation of the school, and should the general board confirm the resolution of the 16th ult., vacating all the chairs, which, as I have stated in a former communication, will, according to the present arrangement, only apply to my chair, it is impossible to foresee where the mischievous consequences will terminate, when the whole transaction shall have acquired entire and extensive notoriety.

The public excitement has not yet subsided in regard to the removal of my predecessor, and the enemies of the school are at this moment exulting in the course of policy which the additional trustees have pursued. They have predicted, and it has been their favourite theme, that the school would never flourish while certain individuals had any influence in its management, and that few gentlemen of character and standing, would be willing to associate themselves with an institution, in which they could have no confidence in the stability of their appointments.

In proceeding in a business involving such serious responsibility, as that which will be presented for the consideration of the general board, I cannot but entertain the hope, that the members will feel it due to the character of the institution over which they preside, as well as to the individual character of each member respectively, to give to the subjects presented to their consideration, a deliberate, candid, and full investigation.

Although the additional act of incorporation gives to the board at Canonsburg, the power to remove at their will and pleasure any of the medical professors of Jefferson College, yet it certainly is to be presumed, that this power will not be abused nor prostituted to any sinister designs; but on the contrary, that it will be exercised with justice and humanity, and in accordance with the customary usages, which prevail under similar circumstances.

Besides, the law grants the power of the removal of professors to the general board at Canonsburg alone,—they are exclusively responsible to *public opinion* for the manner in which this duty may be exercised; and the board at Canonsburg cannot, were it even desirable, delegate that duty, nor the responsibility which it involves, to any other body, which, however, would be virtually the case, were the general board to confirm the resolution of the additional trustees of the 16th ult. simply on its presentation, without a full investigation on their part, of the circumstances which may have given rise to that resolution.

All the existing difficulties have originated in intrigue, and have arrived at their present state of maturity by *secret management*. Dr. Eberle would have been nominated to your board to take the chair of midwifery, Dr. James Rush that of the practice of medicine, and I would thus have been removed, secretly from the institution, without being apprised of any proceedings in regard to my chair by the additional trustees, had it not been for the timely arrival of the Hon. J. B. Sutherland from Washington City, who immediately protested against such secret and irregular transactions, and obtained a postponement of their proceedings, from Friday until Monday, with the view of apprising me of what was about to take place. On Monday the 16th ult. I handed to Dr. Sutherland a memorial, which he presented to the board of additional trustees; a copy of which, some time since, I forwarded to Canonsburg. To avoid, however, the inquiry which that memorial solicited, they passed the resolution vacating all the chairs.

It is proper, however, that the board at Canonsburg should be apprised, that the resolution of the 16th ult. was only carried by a majority of

one vote, and that two of the warmest advocates of the measure, having failed to obtain the object for which that resolution was designed (the placing of Dr. Rush in the chair of practice), have resigned their seats in the board of additional trustees.

It has been rumoured here, that I would be removed on the ground of not having complied with my pecuniary obligations with the faculty; you will perceive, sir, that in the memorial which I presented to the additional trustees, I there state distinctly, that I had complied with all the demands made on me, in regard to the current expenses of the faculty, from my first connexion with it; but to remove even the shadow of a complaint on this head, I presented, on the day of its date, to the additional trustees, the following note, a copy of which I think it proper to transmit, as I am totally ignorant of what charges or statements may be forwarded to Canonsburg.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN BARNES.

CRAIG RITCHIE, Esq. Canonsburg.

Attached to the above, was a copy of the communication, No. 5.

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No. X.

Extract of a letter from Craig Ritchie, jun. to his brother William, of this city, dated Canonsburg, July 30th, 1828.

"The board of trustees of Jefferson College held an extra-meeting yesterday. The communications from the additional board of trustees at Philadelphia, were taken into consideration. There was a pretty warm debate for a few hours. Father read the communications which Dr. Barnes sent to him to the board, and after considerable discussion, the whole case was postponed till their annual meeting in September next."

Notwithstanding this decision of the board of trustees at Canonsburg, which alone has any jurisdiction in these cases, the board of additional trustees of this city, were so far forgetful of what was due to the law of the land and the sacredness and solemnity of an official oath; as to issue the following advertisement, while the medical faculty, at the same time, propagated extensively a circular under the official sanction of the dean, Wm. P. C. Barton, M. D. and dated the 14th of August last, which announced that the chair of midwifery was then vacant.

*"Medical Department of Jefferson College.*

"The public are informed that the new medical hall of Jefferson College is now completed, and that the medical lectures in this college will commence at the usual time, in November next; and be delivered by the following professors, viz:

"On anatomy—George M'Clellan, M. D. who will be assisted by Samuel M'Clellan, M. D. as demonstrator in anatomy, whose eminence in this department is already conspicuous.

"On the theory and practice of physic—John Eberle, M. D.

"On materia medica and botany—William P. C. Barton, M. D.

"On chemistry—Jacob Green, M. D.

"On the institutes of medicine and medical jurisprudence—Benjamin Rush Rhees, M. D.

"On surgery—George M'Clellan, M. D.

"On midwifery and the diseases of women and children—John Eberle, M. D.

"The professorships of anatomy and midwifery will be filled, as above described, for the ensuing season, and subsequently filled by some permanent appointments, at the pleasure of the trustees.

"EZRA STILES ELY,

"Secretary of the additional trustees.

"Philadelphia, August 7th, 1828.

"Aug. 9—sw1N."

Upon the appearance of the above, I addressed letters to both the president and secretary of the additional trustees, which, with a note from Dr. Ely, were published as they here appear.

*Medical Department of Jefferson College.*

John Barnes, M. D. professor of midwifery and the diseases of women and children in the Jefferson Medical College, respectfully announces to the public, that he will deliver his lectures, as professor in this institution, at the usual time in November next. He gives this distinct notice, in consequence of a publication which appeared, in the first instance, on the 9th of August last, signed by the Rev. Ezra Stiles Ely, as secretary of the additional trustees of the college, stating that the professorship of midwifery would be filled for the ensuing season by John Eberle, M. D. He submits the following correspondence, in order to explain to his fellow-citizens the necessity of his present course, after having failed in all other efforts to obtain some regard for his rights:—and if by a continued disregard of these rights on the part of the individuals concerned, it shall become necessary for their future preservation (which he hopes may not be), he will shortly publish a detailed statement of all the circumstances attending his connexion with the college, and those attached to it.

September 22, 1828.

Philadelphia, Aug. 11th, 1828.

Rev. Sir,—In one of the public papers of Saturday last, I observed a notice of the medical department of Jefferson College, signed by you as secretary of the additional trustees, announcing the commencement of the lectures of the institution in November next, and that those on midwifery and the diseases of women and children, will be delivered by John Eberle, M. D.

I seize the earliest opportunity, respectfully to enter my protest against this unwarrantable interference with my rights, as professor of midwifery and the diseases of women and children in the Jefferson Medical College: and explicitly to inform the board that I shall insist on the performance of the duties, and the enjoyment of the privileges of my station until legally deprived of the same. And to this end, it is hardly necessary to intimate I shall feel myself entitled, by every consideration of propriety, to invoke to my aid every honourable means.

The nature of my rights needs not, at this moment at least, to be stated in detail. They should be well known to the additional trustees.

If, however, the board, even at this late period, are disposed, so far as in their power, to render me the justice I claim, I will receive and treat in a spirit of amity any proper communication from them; but if, on the contrary, they shall continue to disregard my rights, the consequence of pushing matters to extremity will be exclusively attributable to them. I would thank the board for an answer, as early as practicable, to this communication. Very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN BARNES, M. D.

Professor of midwifery and the diseases of women and children in Jefferson Med. College.

To the Rev. EZRA STILES ELY, D. D. Secretary of the board of additional trustees of Jeff. Med. College.

*Philadelphia, August 29th, 1828.*

Sir,—On the 11th inst. I addressed a letter to you, as secretary of the board of additional trustees, in relation to my professorship of midwifery in Jefferson Medical College.

To this communication, I requested “an answer as early as practicable.”

Having as yet received no advice from you as to the receipt and disposition of the same, I take the liberty of requesting you would oblige me with information on these points.

It is proper, perhaps, to intimate, that on the 11th inst. in order to ensure attention to the subject, I addressed to the Rev. Ashbel Green, president of the board of additional trustees, a communication, similar to the one to you of the same date. To this also no reply has been made.

I shall, by note of to-day, make the same inquiry of that gentleman which I now make of you. I am, &c.

JOHN BARNES.

REV. EZRA STILES ELY, D. D. Secretary of the board of additional trustees of Jefferson Med. College.

*Philadelphia, Sept. 3d, 1828.*

“Dr. John Barnes,—Sir, for more than a month past, the president and secretary of the additional trustees of Jefferson College, have been almost continually absent from the city.

“So soon as the board shall meet, your late communication will receive due attention.

“E. S. ELY, Sec’y of the add. trustees of Jeff. Col.”

*Philadelphia, Sept. 5th, 1828.*

Rev. Sir,—Your notice of the 3d instant, in answer to my communications of the 11th and 29th ultimo, I received yesterday.

You state, “for more than a month past, the president and secretary of the additional trustees of Jefferson College, have been almost continually absent from the city,” and that “so soon as the board shall meet, your late communication will receive due attention.”

I regret to be constrained to trespass so often upon you in this particular respect, but the ignorance in which I am left, in regard to the time when the board will meet, renders it necessary.

The subject, from its importance, demands, I conceive, immediate attention.

It is believed that all, certainly the greater part of the additional trustees are now in the city: I therefore respectfully request of you, as an official organ of the board, that the additional trustees be called together immediately, in order to consider, and answer my communication of the 11th ult.

I trust, therefore, without further solicitation on my part, I shall hear from the board in the course of the ensuing week.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN BARNES.

EZRA STILES ELY, D. D.

Sec’y of the board of add. trustees of Jeff. College.

It was not until after this REPRESENTATION had been put to press, I received the following communication, to which I returned the succeeding reply. It will appear on reference to the respective dates, that at the time I issued the above announcement of my lectures, I was in the acknowledged possession of the professorship: that even the irregular, and I believe illegal attempt of the board at Canonsburg, to sanction the unwarrantable proceedings of the board of additional trustees, did



not take place until three days subsequently to the appearance of the advertisement in which I proposed to deliver my course at the usual time.

Philadelphia, October 8th, 1828.

"Dr. John Barnes,—Sir, at a meeting of the additional trustees of Jefferson College, held this day, your letters on the subject of your removal from the professorship of midwifery were read, and duly considered; after which I was directed to inform you, that at a meeting of the trustees of Jefferson College at Canonsburg, on the 25th day of September last, the following resolutions were adopted; viz:

"*Resolved*, 1. That this board confirm the recommendations of the additional trustees, vacating the seats of the medical professors at Philadelphia.

"2. *Resolved*, That this board confirm the appointments made by the additional trustees, for the several professorships, viz: Dr. George M'Clellan, professor of surgery: Jacob Green, M. D., professor of chemistry: Dr. John Eberle, of the theory and practice of medicine: Dr. William P. C. Barton, professor of materia medica and botany: Dr. B. R. Rhees, professor of the institutes of medicine:—the professorship of anatomy for the present to be supplied by Dr. M'Clellan; and that of midwifery and the diseases of women and children, by Dr. Eberle.'

"Having thus obeyed the instructions given me, I would respectfully inform you, that the whole title to the new college edifice in south Tenth street is in my hands, and that you are hereby cautioned not to attempt to enter the same for the purpose of delivering any address or lecture therein.

"EZRA STILES ELY, Secretary of the add. trustees of Jefferson College, and sole trustee of the property called Jefferson Medical College."

Philadelphia, October 13th, 1828.

Rev. Sir,—I have received your letter of the 8th inst., in answer to my several communications of the 11th and 29th of August, and 5th of September, in regard to the chair of midwifery. It is of itself, a full and conclusive commentary on the motives of the additional trustees in deferring till this time their answer. It disproves too, their published allegation, that the chair of midwifery was vacant, inasmuch as it traces all authority to the board at Canonsburg.

I now distinctly state, that I deem the acts of the board of trustees at Canonsburg, as well as those of the additional trustees in relation to me, unjust, oppressive, and altogether illegal; and that I shall hold all the persons concerned, and especially the additional trustees and members of the medical faculty, responsible, both in their representative and individual capacities, for all damages resulting from their course of conduct.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,  
JOHN BARNES.

Rev. EZRA STILES ELY,  
Sec'y of the board of add. trustees of Jeff. College.

As this publication may circulate in remote parts of the United States and elsewhere, in which I may not be known, I have thought proper to append a few testimonials, all however received previous to, and therefore furnished without any reference to the present dispute.

## TESTIMONIALS, &c.

In the summer of 1812, I made application for the situation of surgeon in the army of the United States: among other documents then transmitted to Washington City, were the following:

"Dr. John Barnes studied medicine regularly in the University of Pennsylvania, and afterwards graduated as doctor of medicine with reputation. I believe him to be amply qualified for a surgeon in the army of the United States.

"BENJN. RUSH.

"August 4th, 1812."

"To the President of the United States:

"Sir,—My private pupil, Dr. John Barnes, a graduate of medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, is anxious to enter the regular army as surgeon.

"I have written in his behalf to the Secretary of War; but, as a mark of my particular respect to Dr. Barnes, who is really a young man of great merit, I have taken the liberty of mentioning him to you also.

"I hold myself responsible for his good and correct and able conduct, in all respects.

"I am, sir, with profound respect, your obedient, &c.

"B. S. BARTON.

"August 5th, 1812."

"To the Hon. Wm. Eustice, Secretary of War, Washington:

"Sir,—I take the liberty of recommending to your attention, as a fit person to discharge the duties of a surgeon in the United States army, my pupil, Dr. John Barnes, a regular graduate of the highest honours of medicine in our University.

"Dr. Barnes studied for near three years under my immediate direction. He is a young man of very respectable connexions; of the first moral character; and of extensive information in his profession.

"I should not hesitate to consider myself as responsible for his correct conduct, in all respects.

"I am, sir, with high consideration, your obedient servant,

"BENJAMIN SMITH BARTON, M. D. Professor, &c.

"Philadelphia, Aug. 5th, 1812.

In the autumn of 1823, when about to leave Philadelphia, I received the subjoined, among other testimonials:

"Philadelphia, October 18th, 1823.

"This is to certify, that Dr. John Barnes, of this city, has for two years past held the office of vice-president of the Philadelphia Medical Society, and that he has always discharged its duties with dignity, energy, and ability.

"JNO. EBERLE, M. D.

"SAMUEL JACKSON, M. D.

"Corresponding Secretaries of the Philad. Med. Society."

*"Philadelphia, October 25th, 1823.*

"The subscribers, resident physicians of the city of Philadelphia, having understood that Dr. John Barnes, who, for several years has dwelt among us, is about to migrate to the western country, beg leave, for the information of those who may be strangers to him, to bear their testimony to the great respectability of his professional attainments, and to his uniformly correct and honourable deportment.

"They are persuaded, that in whatever community he may settle, he will be deemed an acquisition, and can never forfeit the confidence now reposed in him by his friends.

"PHILIP SYNG PHYSICK,  
"N. CHAPMAN,  
"WM. P. DEWEES,  
"THO. C. JAMES,  
"SAMUEL JACKSON,  
"WILLIAM GIBSON."

"John Barnes, M. D. is one of my medical friends, with whom I have been acquainted for a number of years. I entertain a high opinion of his medical talents and attainments, while his gentlemanly conduct has secured my esteem. I recommend him as a physician, justly entitled to public confidence; and in leaving this city, he carries with him my sincere desires for his prosperity, in every sense of the word.

"JOS. PARRISH.

*"Philada. 10mo. 18th, 1823."*

*"Philadelphia, October 22d, 1823.*

"My Dear Sir,—As you are on the eve of removing to a very distant part of this country, I cannot but express to you my regret at the interruption which is about to take place in our social intercourse, although I am persuaded that your future prosperity will be materially enhanced by the step you are taking. In the place to which you are going, you will much sooner realize the full reward of your professional merits than can be expected in this city, where the profession is overcrowded, and where extrinsic influence too often prevails against intrinsic worth,—where wealth, rank, and family, stand as a barrier to the advancement of those who would rely upon their own merits for success, and where these idols of folly and aristocracy are worshipped with a reverence and prostration, unknown at a holier shrine. I shall expect to hear from you often; and I beg you, especially, to communicate to me whatever you may find interesting or novel in the natural history and diseases of the country to which you are going. If your leisure will admit, I should be much pleased to receive from you a full account of the bilious fever, so common along the Mississippi; and particularly with regard to its supposed similarity to the yellow fever. I must ask you also to attend to the indigenous vegetable materia medica of those regions, and to communicate to me the result of your inquiries. I am the more anxious to press these offices on your attention, from the conviction I have that you are eminently qualified to do entire justice to them. Your education; general as well as professional information; and especially your habits of observation and study, will give you an immense advantage in the situation in which you will be placed.

"The first number of our new journal will be out in January next. I will send it on to you regularly. Nothing would give me greater satisfaction than to have an occasional paper from you. The articles which

you furnished me for the Medical Recorder, did much credit to that work; and I feel particularly desirous to have the assistance of your pen for our new medical journal.

"Farewell—and may God grant you health—and a prosperous and long life.

"Most sincerely, your friend,

"J. EBERLE.

"Dr. J. BARNES."

In the year 1825, when a resident of the state of Louisiana, received information that the chair of materia medica was vacant in the Lexington medical school. I addressed a letter to professor Drake, as dean of the faculty, leaving it discretionary with him to present it or not, as he might deem proper.

On that occasion, this distinguished physician had the kindness and politeness, to present voluntarily to the board of trustees of that institution, the following testimonial:

"*Transylvania University, Medical Department, Aug. 15th, 1825.*

"Sir,—I have the honour to enclose to you, for the consideration of the trustees, a letter from Dr. John Barnes, of Louisiana, with a sheet of testimonials in his favour. Dr. Barnes's letter will indicate to the board, that he wishes to be considered as a candidate for a professorship in our department. In performing an official duty on this occasion, I feel it due to Dr. B. to state, that in the winter of 1814-15, when I was last in Philadelphia, he occupied a very respectable rank among the younger practitioners of the city; was regarded as the best presiding officer of the Philadelphia Medical Society, which was much improved in its discipline and literary exercises by his able and unwearied exertions; was a constant attendant upon the meetings of the various scientific institutions of the city; and had, with approbation, delivered two courses of lectures on botany, a science for which, in connexion with his profession, he was said to have both taste and talents.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"DAN. DRAKE, Dean medical faculty.

"JOHN BRADFORD, Esq. Chairman, &c."





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